



WASHINGTON CONSERVATION SOCIETY

2022 Report of Accomplishments



OUR MISSION

The mission of Washington Conservation Society is to promote natural resource conservation efforts in Washington State by providing a philanthropic center for investments in citizen-led, voluntary-based conservation projects, activities, education, and outreach efforts.



WHAT WE DO



- ❖ Support educational opportunities for youth by sponsoring Conservation Education Programs in Washington State.
- ❖ Support conservation of natural resources by utilizing our 501 c (3) status and acting as a pass-through entity for district's seeking grants.
- ❖ Honor the life-long dedication and service of notable Washington State conservationists by including them in our Leaving a Legacy booklet.

EDUCATION

2022 Conservation Education Mini-Grants Update



Underwood CD - The Farm Tool Library is designed to provide conservation-oriented tools to farmers and gardeners for free or at a low-cost. During the grant period, we developed a website and reservation system where the public can create a membership, view pictures of the tools in the inventory, check availability and reserve tools. This can be viewed at: <https://www.ucdwa.org/farm-tool-library>.

EDUCATION

2022 Conservation Education Mini-Grants Update



Thurston CD - Teens in Thurston (TnT) program is a youth natural resource conservation volunteer and career advancement program. We successfully recruited the first cohort of teens who participated in monthly volunteer events and activities. Events included things like invasive removal, planting native plants, and urban gardening. In addition, we created a directory of local organizations that had the interest and capacity to work with youth one-on-one. TnT participants can use this directory to be matched with local organizations whose work they're excited about to meet personal or school required community service.

EDUCATION

2022 Conservation Education Mini-Grants Update



The winning team from Okanogan High School pose with their advisor and first place award.

Envirothon - Students from across Washington state gathered in person for the first time since 2019, for the annual Washington State Envirothon Competition on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. We were excited to finally host an in-person Envirothon, still with COVID-19 precautions in place. The event was hosted for one day at the Lazy F Camp and Retreat Center in Ellensburg, Washington. 45 students were in attendance, making up 9 teams from 8 different schools across Washington State.

EDUCATION

2022 Conservation Education Mini-Grants Update



Benton CD - Thanks to grant funding from the Washington Conservation Society and a donation from the Basin Bloomers gardening club, Benton Conservation District was able to purchase 88 plant labels for the Hansen Park Heritage Garden. The markers were installed in time for the Butterfly Dash and Discovery Day which was held on May 14, 2022.

EDUCATION

2022 Conservation Education Mini-Grants Update



Palouse CD - Carry Nature With You: Enhancing Environmental Awareness on the Palouse. This project focused on enhancing scientific and environmental literacy through the distribution of environmental education backpack kits in the Palouse community. Palouse CD partnered with Neill Public Library in Pullman and Whitman County Libraries to develop six Environmental Explorer Kits for families. Materials from the kits were used at outdoor education events hosted by Palouse CD this spring and fall to foster families' and community members' interest in getting outdoors and learning more about nature.



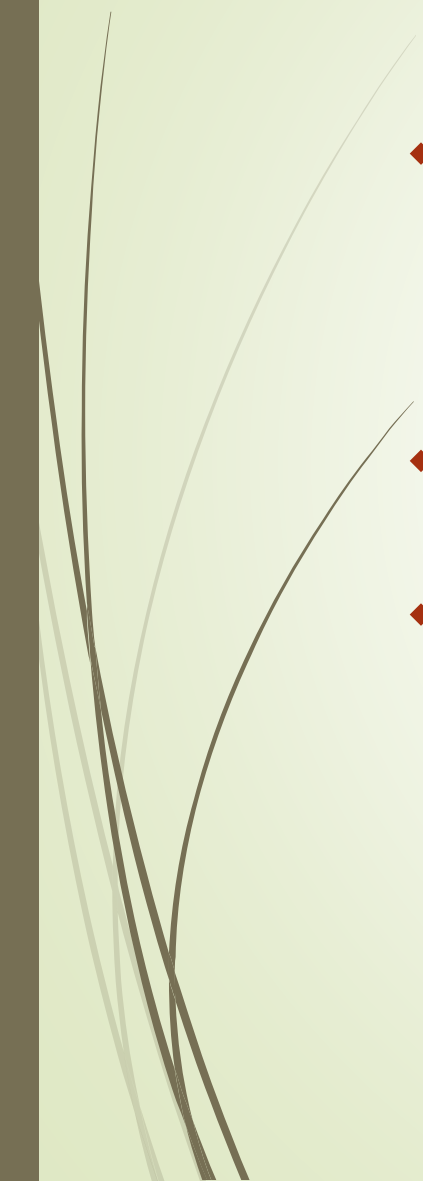
Conservation Education Mini-Grant Applications FY23

6 Applications Were Received,
5 Were Eligible to be Ranked:

- ❖ Benton CD ~ STEM Academy
- ❖ Franklin CD ~ STEM Academy
- ❖ Underwood CD ~ UCD Youth Education
- ❖ Envirothon ~ Washington State Envirothon Competition
- ❖ Ritzville Grade School ~ Outdoor Education



LEAVING A LEGACY

- ❖ Created to honor conservationists for their outstanding dedication and service to our natural resources.
 - ❖ 4 New Inductees, see next pages.
 - ❖ Book is Available Electronically
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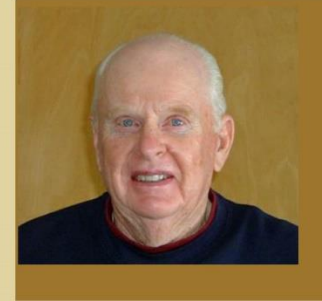
Dale Smick

Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District

November 08, 1925 - October 03, 2020

Dale was an early advocate of conservation and was happy to be able to spread ideas and information about new conservation practices through his position as Supervisor on the Palouse-Rock Lake Soil and Water Conservation District from 1959-1965. He incorporated many of these new techniques into his own farming operation near Endicott, WA.

In 1973, Dale and his wife Loraine were recognized as Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation Farmers of the Year for the outstanding environmental impact resulting from these practices. Two of the key benefits resulting from Dale's efforts include reduced soil erosion and abundant wildlife habitat. The impacts of Dale's conservation actions will carry on for generations to come.



Dale was a 4th generation wheat farmer and was very proud to spend his days operating and managing the family farm.

Marie Lotz

Grant County Conservation District
August 9, 1970 – December 25, 2021

Marie started working for the Othello Conservation District in 1999 where she provided bookkeeping and administrative support for the district, the Groundwater Management Area (GWMA), and the Conservation District Partnership. It was evident from the beginning that Marie had found her calling. At one time, she was conducting administrative functions for the GWMA, Partnership, and four conservation districts: Othello, Warden, Moses Lake, and Upper Grant County. Marie saw the benefits and opportunities of consolidating these districts and worked to bring them together into what became known as the Grant County Conservation District (GCCD). Through her hard work and dedication, Marie was promoted to district manager of GCCD in January 2013. She was instrumental in developing, implementing, and managing many programs, most notably the Othello Sandhill Crane Festival, the Voluntary Stewardship Program, and the Moses Lake Watershed Project. Marie coordinated and facilitated hundreds of meetings over the years, with her kind, humble spirit, and expert skills. She demonstrated time and time again that conservation districts could facilitate and implement both small and large conservation projects successfully. Those of us who had the privilege of working with Marie, witnessed a level of professionalism, integrity, and dedication rarely found even among the best of us. She was truly a force to be reckoned with. Through her tireless efforts, GCCD was recognized as the top conservation district in the State in 2018. She leaves an incredible legacy, including a strong, growing team and programs, a new district office building and community gathering space, and the fiscal stability and relationships needed to continue providing quality technical assistance to the public which she served for twenty-two years.



Marie's greatest professional honor was receiving the Vim Wright "Building Bridges" Award for her work in bringing the districts together in 2012.

John Graham Boulton

Jefferson County Conservation District

December 7, 1927 – April 23, 2022



According to John "It's always in the best interest of landowners to utilize BMP's".

Photo Credit: Selden McKee

John became a Conservation District associate supervisor in 1954. On June 23rd, 1955, with his board's unanimous support, John was appointed as a supervisor by the State's Soil Conservation Commission. John served as a supervisor until May 2013, although he remained an associate supervisor until his passing.

When John started back in the 1950's and early 60's "farmers were more concerned about drainage issues - either too much or not enough water." Through the years John helped the district change from renting equipment to farm operators to conserving natural resources. Besides talking about BMP's John implemented them for years on the family farm; he helped his father plant riparian buffers along Andrews Creek before there was such a term. John represented the district on the Washington Association of Conservation Districts' Forestry Committee, he was an active member in the Washington Farm Forestry Association, and the Washington Contract Loggers Association to name a few.

John's love and dedication for the land was personified when he placed his 142-acre farm into a conservation easement with the [Jefferson Land Trust](#). The easement is a legal contract to keep the land intact as a working farm in perpetuity.

Joseph 'Joe' Charles Heller

Whatcom Conservation District
September 14, 1949 - November 3, 2021

Joe Heller was born in Bellingham, Washington. After graduating high school, he went onto the University of Washington and obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forest Resources.

He worked for the Department of Agriculture United States Forest Service for 35 years and retired in 2005. He served on a Forest Service regional overhead team for Wildlands Fires. Joe was on many Volunteer Fire Departments across Washington State for 25 years. A member of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) since 1971, Joe was honored as the 2000 Forester of the Year by the Southwest Chapter of Washington SAF.

Joe also worked as a member of the Interagency Puget Sound River Basin Team of Soil Conservation for the State of Washington. He was a member of Kiwanis of Hoodspout (WA) for 8 years, and was active with the Black Mountain Forestry Center (Maple Falls, WA), and Mt. Baker Foothills Chamber of Commerce (Maple Falls).

Joe was appointed to the Whatcom Conservation District Board of Supervisors and served for ten years. On the board, he was the resident expert on forestry issues. Joe's forestry knowledge was greatly appreciated by his fellow Board members.



In 2004, Joe was named a Society of American Foresters (SAF) fellow, for outstanding contributions and service to the SAF and the profession.

Board & Officer Elections

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Elected Board of Directors

- ❖ North Central ~ John McLean
- ❖ South Central ~ Heather Wendt
- ❖ Northeast ~ Hilary Sepulveda
 - ❖ Northwest ~ Larry Davis
- ❖ Southeast ~ Jerry Hendrickson
- ❖ Southwest ~ Doug Rushton



Elected Officers

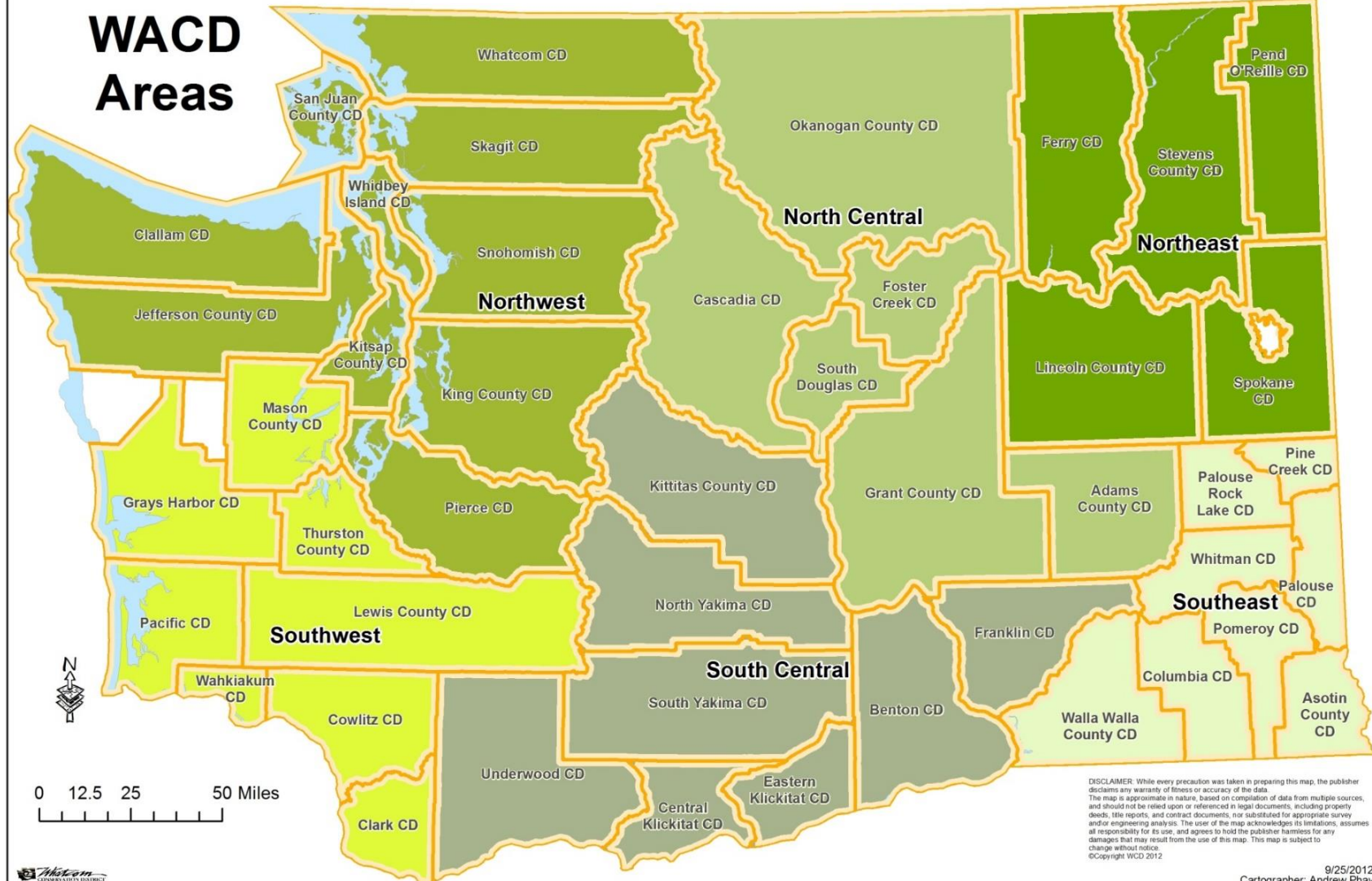
President ~ Larry Davis

Vice President ~ Doug Rushton

Secretary – Treasurer ~ Heather Wendt



WACD Areas



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Cartographer: Andrew Phay

FUTURE GOALS AND PROJECTS

- ❖ Continue partnering with CD's as a grants pass through
- ❖ Promote donations through Combined Fund Drive and Amazon Smile
- ❖ Development of the Creating a Legacy Program